

Range Extension of the Sipunculoidean Annelid *Phascolion strombi* (Montagu) in the Gulf of Mexico

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Phascolion strombi (Montagu) is a widespread, cosmopolitan species which occurs in the western Atlantic from Labrador to the West Indies (Gerould, 1913; Hyman, 1959; and Miner, 1950). Although his identification of them was tentative, Hedgpeth (1954) reported small specimens from shells of *Nassarius vibex* in Caminada Bay, Louisiana.

This annelid was collected incidentally at two locations by Bureau of Commercial Fisheries personnel during routine biological sampling in Galveston Bay (Texas) and the adjacent near-shore Gulf of Mexico. The author is unaware of any previous record of its occurrence in the Galveston area.

Seventy-five specimens were collected November 4, 1963, on silty-sand bottom at a depth of 36 feet (6 fathoms) in the Gulf near the Galveston jetties (lat. 29° 20' N., long. 94° 36.6' W.). Water temperature and salinity were 23 C. and 32.1 ppt., respectively. The worms ranged in length from 14 to 21 mm. (averaged 17 mm.) and were observed to be occupying empty, 6-mm.-long shells of *Nassarius acutus*.

A single specimen was collected December 3, 1963, from 6 feet (1 fathom) of water on silty-clay bottom in Upper Galveston Bay (Lat. 29° 34.3' N., long. 94° 57.9' W.). It was 22 mm. long and occupied the empty shell of *Epitonium rupicola*. The water temperature was 13.6 C. and the salinity 23.3 ppt.

LITERATURE CITED

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¹ Contribution No. 196, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, Galveston, Texas.

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